

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of the Second District staff, George Harper. George has been a member of our team for almost 2 years, and he has brought a strong level of professionalism and personal integrity to the job. I am happy to report that George will not be traveling far as he joins Congressman JON PORTER's office as a legislative assistant.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, George first came to Capitol Hill as a summer intern in the office of Senator JIM DEMINT of South Carolina. After serving as a deputy legislative assistant to Senator CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska, he joined our office, first as a scheduler and then as legislative correspondent.

George's hard work, dedication and pleasant demeanor have made him an invaluable member of our staff as we work hard to address the needs and concerns of the people of the Second Congressional District. Our office will miss George tremendously. And we wish him all the best in all his future endeavors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. And we will never forget September 11th.

HONORING THE HEROICS OF HASSAN ASKARI

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud the bravery of a young man, Hassan Askari. On December 9 of this year, Hassan Askari risked his own safety and his life to defend a group of strangers who were attacked on a New York City subway.

What started as an exchange of Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah between two fellow passengers ignited into a violent exchange of anti-Semitic slurs and violence.

A group of men and women attacked the Jewish passengers, and only one passenger came to their defense, Hassan Askari. Hassan, like the men he was trying to help, was beaten and pummeled by the attackers. But as he said with regard to his actions, "I believe we are all members of one family, and my religion teaches me always to come to the aid of my fellow man in distress."

Hassan is a Muslim from Bangladesh. He was taught, as we all should be, that we are humans first, first and foremost. And no matter what our faith or race, we should treat each other with respect.

Hassan's actions on the subway were human nature at its best, and I applaud him for interceding to stop a senseless act of violence and hate. I hope his actions will serve as an example for all of us.

PASS A CLEAN AMT FIX

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, how much longer do American taxpayers have to wait for Congress to pass a sensible and fair fix to the alternative minimum tax? This highly punitive tax, originally intended to catch only the worst of tax scofflaws, will hit 23 million middle-class taxpayers next year if Congress doesn't act now. Unfortunately, the majority's delay tactics have already caused a cascade effect that will delay the tax refunds of 50 million Americans. If Congress keeps stalling, things will go from bad to worse.

The Senate already rejected a poorly conceived plan that temporarily patches the AMT, but on the condition of enacting a permanent tax hike. Only in Washington does it make sense to make a temporary 1-year tax patch and counter it with a permanent tax hike.

Let's stop the charade and pass an AMT fix that protects millions of middle-class Americans from a huge tax increase. If Congress delays any longer, those 23 million taxpayers will be saddled with an unexpected and severe \$2,000 tax increase.

The Senate sent us a clean AMT bill nearly 2 weeks ago. Before we go home, we need to do the right thing and pass it. American taxpayers deserve no less.

COACH BROYLES

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SNYDER. Penn, my 18-month-old little boy, thanks to his mother's teachings, can now do the official signs for touchdown, illegal procedure, blocking the back, and of course his favorite, Who is number one? The Arkansas Razorbacks.

I say thanks to his mother because, while she is now a full-time Methodist minister, I am convinced for several decades of her life the Holy Trinity was the Father, the Son and the Holy "Coach," with the coach, of course, being Frank Broyles of the Arkansas Razorbacks.

Coach Broyles' career is coming to an end at the end of this month as both a great coach and an outstanding athletic director. He has also been very active and may have visited with Members here in the Congress about his work on behalf of Alzheimer's research and the treatment with respect and dignity of Alzheimer's patients.

We wish Coach Broyles well as his career is ending, although it wouldn't surprise me that another college might try to pick him up.

IN HONOR OF JOHN FRANKLIN "FRANK" BROYLES, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise with my Arkansas colleagues this morning to recognize a man who meant a great deal in my life and a great deal to those who are fans of college football and the University of Arkansas.

I rise to honor the legacy and career of Frank Broyles, the athletic director of the university and former head football coach who will end his 50-year run with the Razorbacks on December 31.

Frank Broyles is an icon in Arkansas and a legend in the world of collegiate athletics. His new mission, among other things, will be to educate Americans on caring for loved ones suffering with Alzheimer's.

The names of those associated with Coach Broyles are impressive: Jerry Jones, Jimmy Johnson, Barry Switzer, Johnny Majors, Joe Gibbs, Raymond Berry, and the list goes on and on, all played or coached for Broyles over his career. He even teamed with the legendary broadcaster Keith Jackson for several years to bring the college games to our homes every weekend.

I will be forever proud to be a Razorback and to have had the opportunity to be one under Coach Broyles. I congratulate him on his career, and sincerely thank him for his service to the great State of Arkansas. And as we say in Arkansas, Wooo, Pig Sooeey.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COACH BROYLES

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, first, I would encourage everyone to remember our men and women in uniform and their families and reach out to them.

The Arkansas delegation rises this morning to pay tribute to a man that has made magnificent contributions to the State of Arkansas, to college athletics, to this country. His leadership, working together with the people of Arkansas, has demonstrated the great value of the people working together for the common good.

His contributions are unmatched. He has demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt the value of integrity and decency, always take the high road. He has made us all very proud to be Razorbacks, as has just been alluded to from my colleague in northwest Arkansas, but he has also demonstrated to the human race what it means to not only be a Razorback, but to be a man of great class and integrity and always take the high road.

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BURMA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the world has watched over recent months as the brutal dictatorship in Burma has arrested and killed Buddhist monks and democracy activists and as it continues to attack, rape and kill ethnic minorities. The House has just passed an excellent bill imposing further sanctions on Burma, the JADE Act.

Amazingly, in the Senate, leading Democrats don't want the House version of the bill. Instead, they want to allow for cash money to go to the ruling regime for humanitarian purposes. Hello? Aid that goes through the regime does not get to the people of Burma. The rulers simply enrich themselves with any moneys coming into the country.

In addition, certain Senators wish to give the Treasury Department an opening one could drive a Mack truck through so that Treasury could make any regulation it likes regarding U.S. money going into Burma. I hope those Senators will read the reports and look at the photos from Burma. The democracy activists, monks and ethnic minorities are the ones who should get our support, not the brutal military regime.

RECOGNIZING ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND FORMER COACH FRANK BROYLES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, as he prepares for retirement at the end of this year, it is impossible to think about Razorback athletics and imagine what it would be like without Coach Frank Broyles. His achievements on the field are numerous and distinctive. However, it is his battle off the field that inspires me even more. In 1999, Coach Broyles' wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and, needless to say, this battle changed his family forever. Studying defenses on the football field for decades prepared Coach Broyles as he looked for a way to attack perhaps his greatest challenge yet.

After years of caring for his wife and receiving calls and letters from supporters, he sat down and compiled his most impressive playbook ever: "The Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers: A Practical Tip Guide." His playbook has helped countless families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's, letting them know that their fight with this disease is not something they must face alone. In 2004, Coach Broyles' wife, Barbara Broyles, succumbed to the disease, which still has no cure.

His accomplishments in college football will never be forgotten, but the hope and faith he has given to families across this Nation coping with Alz-

heimer's will leave a lasting impact on our society for generations to come.

EARMARKS FOR REELECTION CAMPAIGNS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, one of my astute colleagues recently said, "One of the toughest parts of being a Member of Congress is remembering what we are supposed to be outraged about." I thought about this yesterday when I heard the report that surprise, surprise, earmarks were being used to help Members get reelected. The reason that is treated with kind of a ho-hum is because, as it turns out, that is one of the more noble explanations as to why earmarks are used.

With the reporting that is going on about earmarks being tied to campaign contributions, or chairmen, or people in leadership positions getting tens of millions of dollars in earmarks for favored companies or organizations in their district, it seems that we have simply gone too far when we don't recognize this as a problem.

I would call on my colleagues in the new year to have a moratorium on earmarks. Let's put a brake on this process until we can put a process in place to adequately vet these. There is no noble purpose for the contemporary practice of earmarking. Try as we might, we aren't coming up with one.

THE DEMOCRATIC YEAR IN REVIEW

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. The first year of the new Democratic majority is coming to a close, and we have already set our Nation in a new direction. We increased the minimum wage, improving the lives of millions of American workers. We increased fuel efficiency standards and set a new path for energy independence that will create new jobs and enhance our economic competitiveness. We enacted the largest college financial aid expansion since 1944, bringing the American Dream within the reach of millions of children in our country. And we are about to pass the largest increase in veterans health care in American history in honor of the service and commitment of all of our veterans.

We accomplished all of this in spite of the stubborn resistance of Republican obstructionists who have tried to undermine our efforts at every opportunity. We did this despite the President's refusal to compromise.

This year is coming to a close, but our commitment to change will continue. Hard-working American families can be assured that when we return in January, the Democratic majority will continue to fight for their and our priorities.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, secure and hopeful new year to all Americans. God bless our great Nation.

THE OKLAHOMA STANDARD

(Ms. FALLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, this past week the State of Oklahoma experienced a severe ice storm that left over 600,000 homes and businesses without power or heat. As you can imagine, Oklahomans have had a very challenging time. Today, I want to thank the people of Oklahoma for helping each other and commend the various generous volunteers and organizations that came to their aid.

Since the disaster of the Murrah Federal Building in 1995, the people of my great State are said to have created what is known as "the Oklahoma standard," rallying to help each other in times of need, and certainly this past week, to week and a half, has been no exception.

I want to personally thank Governor Henry and President Bush for working together to ensure that the proper Federal aid disaster relief has come to Oklahoma. And I would also like to commend the State Office of Emergency Management, FEMA representatives and the State Corporation Commission who kept us informed and on track as power loss was reported and power was restored.

I especially want to commend the utility crews who worked tirelessly in their efforts to restore power. I want to thank the hundreds of utility workers from other States who came to help. Thank you for leaving your homes and families during this holiday season.

Madam Speaker, there are so many organizations to thank who went above and beyond to help the State of Oklahoma, churches, synagogues and charities. The Southern Baptist Convention, United Way of Central Oklahoma, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross, to name just a few, worked to provide food, shelter and other supplies, and all went beyond their usual call of duty to clear the road to recovery.

Thank you so much, and may God bless you.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE REFORM

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my serious concerns that inadequate oversight, deficient procedures, and ethical lapses at the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) are costing the Federal Government millions of dollars each year.

The MMS is responsible for negotiating, implementing and overseeing all